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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

7 In the Matter of  
8 Designating Court Opinions

**GENERAL ORDER NO. 04-17**

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10 In accordance with guidance approved by the Executive Committee of the Judicial  
11 Conference of the United States, the Court adopts the following criteria to insure that written  
12 opinions of the Court are available to the public at no cost via the PACER system.

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14 “Written Opinion” is defined as “any document issued by a judge or judges of the court,  
15 sitting in that capacity, that sets forth a reasoned explanation for a court’s decision.” This  
16 definition is clarified by the following points:

- 17 (1) That the responsibility for determining which documents meet this definition rests  
18 with the authoring judge, which determination shall be made at the time the  
19 document is filed;
- 20 (2) That the decision as to whether a document meets this definition is not the same as  
21 the decision about whether an opinion is to be published;
- 22 (3) That the definition is expressly intended to cover any Report and Recommendation  
23 issued by a Magistrate Judge, as well as the District Judge’s Order Adopting the  
24 Report and Recommendation or an Order Denying the Report and Recommendation.

1 (4) That the definition is not intended to include routine, non-substantive orders such as  
2 scheduling orders and orders on motions for extension of time.  
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4 DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017.  
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8 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
9 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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